

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3218

March 19, 2018

MaryEllen Elia  
Commissioner  
New York State Education Department  
89 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12234

Dear Commissioner Elia,

I write today in support of recent correspondence you received from the Orange County Legislature (resolution No. 52) requesting funds to improve and expand security technology at local schools. I request that you assist Orange County districts in obtaining state investments to update their safety features.

In addition to existing State resources already designated to protect our schools, the federal government is also working to make additional funds available to states and localities. As you may be aware, the House of Representatives recently passed HR 4909, the STOP School Violence Act—legislation I cosponsored—to reauthorize funds for the Secure Our Schools program administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The program is designed to provide states and localities the resources necessary to address the dire need for safety improvements in schools. The legislation passed on a vote of 407-10. This program has clear bipartisan support and it is my hope that the legislation will be passed by the Senate and signed into law.

I request that you work with our local districts to ensure they can secure funding through existing State programs and new federal funding which should be made available soon.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to working with you and the NYS DOE to continue supporting our schools here in the Hudson Valley.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress